The godown constructed under the Scheme shall be properly ventilated, shall have well fitted doors, windows and ventilators and shall be waterproof (for control of moisture from floor, walls and roof etc.) The godown structure shall have protection from rodents. The godown shall have protection from birds also.

By the end of March, 2007, 12,704 new rural godown projects and 1,664 projects for renovation of godowns have been sanctioned under the Scheme involving the creation of total storage capacity of 158.40 lakh MTs and 23.781akh MTs respectively.

Contract farming

2020. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Veeresh Committee constituted in the wake of suicide by farmers had recommended almost doing away with small farming that is considered as uneconomical;

(b) if so, whether Government would consider to bring radical changes in the existing Land Reforms Act and do consolidation of small holdings and promote contract farming in cooperative groups;and

(c) if so, whether any study has been undertaken in this regard and if not; the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shortfall in foodgrains during 2006-07

2021. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an up-to-date assessment has been made by Government regarding the shortfall in foodgrains, particularly wheat and rice in the country for 2007 both the Rabi and Kharif crops, due to inclement weather and floods in various parts of the country during 2006 and so far 2007; and

(b) the steps contemplated by Government to augment stocks and also to increase the production of wheat and rice in the country during the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) As per the fourth advance estimates released on 19.07.2007, foodgrains production in the country during 2006-07 for both Kharif and Rabi seasons is estimated at 216.13 million tonnes which is the highest achievement so far. Rice production estimated at 92.76 million tonnes and wheat production estimated at 74.89 million tonnes during 2006-07 are also the second highest achievements.

For the agriculture year 2007-08, sowing of Kharif crops is going on. As per the report received in the weekly Crop Weather Watch Group meeting held in the Ministry on 24.08.2007, the area coverage under rice is 31.9 million hectares compared to 32.3 million hectares for the corresponding period last year. The first advance estimates for 2007-08 of production of Kharif crops would be brought out in September. Wheat is a Rabi crop and its sowing will start in October, 2007. It is too early to give production assessment,

(b) To augment wheat stocks, Government has decided to import wheat. The Government of India has initiated two schemes for increasing foodgrains production and improving the agricultural growth in the country. These are (i) National Food Security Mission (NFSM) for Rice, Wheat and Pulses, and (ii) Additional Central Assistance Scheme (ACAS).

Relief package for distressed farmers

2022. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether special relief packages for distressed farmers in various States have been sanctioned and distributed;

(b) if so, the details of the packages sanctioned;

(c) whether it is a fact that there have been delays in the. distribution of relief packages; and

(d) if so, the details of funds so far distributed to each of the distressed districts, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) The Government of India has approved a rehabilitation package for the farmers in 31 identified suicide prone Districts of the four States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Kerala. State-wise details of the rehabilitation package sanctioned is given below:

(Rs. in crore)

State	Amount sanctioned
Andhra Pradesh	9650.55
Karnataka	2689.64
Kerala	765.24
Maharashtra	3873.26
	16978.69

The rehabilitation package is under implementation.

(c) No such report has been received trom the concerned State Governments.

(d) Does not arise.